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# BOOK REVIEWS

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*A Yankee Inventor's Flying Ship: Two Pamphlets by Rufus Porter.* Edited by Rhoda R. Gilman.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. 51 p. Illustrations. \$7.25.)

THIS LITTLE BOOK, approximately fifty pages with numerous enchanting illustrations, is fascinating for the evidence it gives of the early recognition of the aerodynamic shape required to control the direction of an aerostat. Balloons are used for sport and for scientific research. They have limited use in war and are no good at all for travel since they go wherever the wind happens to blow.

Rufus Porter devised a system for directional control which, though lacking modern technology and materials, was practical. It could have worked. He also gives an explanation of air flow over a curved plane that closely resembles that of an elementary schoolteacher of today advancing the Bernoulli Theorem relative to airplane flight.

Even more important is Porter's concept of a rigid airship, a concept attributed to Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin when it was developed by the German some sixty years later. In this connection it is pertinent to remember Zeppelin's balloon flight in Minnesota in the 1860s. Undoubtedly some of Porter's pamphlets came into the latter's hands during that visit to the United States. Americans have such a tendency, along with their braggadocio, to be overly impressed by anything that is imported that it is well to consider the possibility that the so-called "German genius" has really been derived from American and French inventions. At the same time that Rufus Porter was trying to implement his rigid airship invention, Henri Giffard designed and flew a non-rigid, power-driven airship.

Similarly, Eugene Goddard was at work on rockets in the 1920s when the "great German rocket experts" were still in school. If Goddard and his colleagues had gotten the same help from the United States government that Hitler gave German rocketry, the whole history of space exploration and of the world could have been different. But then, of course, the United States was not interested in bombing England, Russia, or Germany either, for that matter. Governments historically have found money for war when they could not find it for peaceful civilian purposes.

Porter's pamphlets were written ostensibly to obtain sponsorship for the construction of his airship. In reading

them, however, one senses that he was more interested in writing than in the actual construction of a functional craft. He should have been a Jules Verne, content to conceive a great invention, without bothering too much with the minutiae of hardware construction. Or, perhaps, the government should have started a century and a half earlier to provide unlimited funds to employ engineers, designers, and contractors to do research and fill in the blanks of his thinking. One feels, reading his pamphlets, that he could have handled the Public Affairs Office. The idea of getting to California from New York City in three days was tremendous even half a century later when men's minds still boggled at the complexity of the undertaking.

In his efforts to sell his idea Porter oversimplified the problems. Although I, personally, ride without any uneasiness with two other persons in a wicker balloon basket, I get a certain feeling of discomfort at the thought of being with 50 to 150 persons in a canvas-walled saloon, 150 feet long and 10 feet wide with only "thin boards" underneath. I cannot help thinking that in his enthusiasm to get quantities of people traveling west, he was overcrowding it a bit.

On the other hand, I have great sympathy for Porter and wish that he really could have built his aeroport with its "revoloidal spindle." What a wonderful phrase. It has a hugeness about it that is lacking in the simple word "helix." Porter had developed the idea with such care and worked out the theories of flight and finances with such detail (so many board feet at so many dollars, so many yards of cloth at so many dollars, etc.) that one wishes he could have filled in the strange little gaps in his thinking and that he could have had the help which would have made his ideas a reality.

Put yourself in Rufus Porter's mind. Think of a New York-to-California airship, floating serenely above the range of Indian arrows while ox carts labored through the rocks, sand, and mud below. Two different centuries lived side by side in the man's mind.

*Reviewed by JEANNETTE PICCARD, who piloted the stratospheric flight of the balloon perfected by her husband Jean in 1934. Dr. Piccard, who serves as a consultant to the director of the Manned Spacecraft Center, is one of Minnesota's most honored women as a result of her contributions to space technology.*

*The National Nonpartisan League Papers with Henry G. Teigan Supplement.*

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1970. 18 rolls and printed guide, \$180. Single rolls, \$12.50.)

*Guide to a Microfilm Edition of the National Nonpartisan League Papers.* By Deborah K. Neubeck.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1970. 22 p. \$2.00.)

THE VARIOUS COLLECTIONS of the Minnesota Historical Society relative to the Nonpartisan League, designated as the National Nonpartisan League Papers, have recently been microfilmed and thus made fully available to scholars. This *Guide* provides an excellent backgrounding on the league and an analysis of the contents of the papers, which remain by far the most useful single collection on the subject.

Deborah Neubeck, who also prepared the collection for microfilming, includes in the guide a brief and accurate summary of the league's history, information on the sources of the collection, an inventory of the microfilm rolls, and a careful discussion of their content. There is a supplemental brief bibliography on the league and an author and subject index used in the cataloging of the papers.

The National Nonpartisan League Papers include most notably the extensive, although somewhat spotty, correspondence files and miscellaneous papers of Henry G. Teigan, secretary of the league through its most significant years, 1916-23. There are also scattered materials from the files of the *Minnesota Leader* (the official publication of the organization's Minnesota branch), the Northwestern Service Bureau (an organization created to develop and service league-oriented rural newspapers), and the *St. Paul Dispatch*, which published a series of antileague articles in 1918. Finally, there is a group of varied pamphlets published both by the league and its opponents, plus a notebook containing transcripts of over fifty speeches by league leaders and items pertaining to several famous wartime trials in which league officials were involved.

The *Guide* is very competently written and well organized, reflecting the good selective judgment and careful processing in preparation of the collection. The reader unfamiliar with the papers should perhaps be warned that he may be led unintentionally at some points to assume that there is more of substance in some segments of the collection than there actually is, because the author's running commentary, although very accurate, stems in part from her familiarity with the entire history of the movement. This collection is vital to any serious study of the league, and Mrs. Neubeck's *Guide* is an admirable handbook of information for its effective use.

*Reviewed by* ROBERT L. MORLAN, *professor of government at the University of Redlands in California. He is the author of Political Prairie Fire: The Nonpartisan League, 1915-1922 (1955), and "The Nonpartisan League and the Minnesota Campaign of 1918," which appeared in the Summer, 1955, issue of Minnesota History.*

*The Prehistoric Peoples of Minnesota.* By Elden Johnson.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. 36 p. Illustrations. \$1.50.)

THERE HAS BEEN a real need for popular booklets summarizing the archaeology of the individual states. We now have an excellent one for Minnesota. Mr. Johnson has traced the 10,000 years of Minnesota's prehistory in twenty-six readable pages, well stocked with illustrations of sites, features, and artifacts.

Following an introductory section, the Paleo-Indian cultures are described: the earliest group evidenced only by surface finds of relatively few fluted points of the Clovis and Folsom variety, followed by the Plano peoples beginning around 6000 B.C. In the latter category the important Browns Valley finds are discussed. This is one of the rare sites in the Great Lakes area where Plano artifacts were found associated with a burial, and a particular point type bears its name. There is good reason to believe that these early groups were hunters of big game, but the illustration which shows the artist's conception of how it was done (by driving bison over a cliff à la Plains Indian style and the use of a spear with a foot-long point) seems unusually speculative.

The next chapter, encompassing the Eastern Archaic tradition (5000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.), centers on the Old Copper people, who were known for their skill in fashioning native copper into a variety of tools and weapons. Until recently our knowledge of these people, whose center of concentration was in Wisconsin, depended on the study of surface finds and the excavation of a few cemeteries. In 1966 an Old Copper habitation site was discovered and excavated at Petaga Point in Minnesota.

A sizable section of the booklet is devoted to the Woodland peoples (1000 B.C. to 1700 A.D.). This period saw the introduction of pottery, mound-building, and, beginning around 1000 A.D., limited agriculture. Of the numerous mounds in the state Johnson notes some unusual ones: the Grand Mound, over forty feet in height, and the Stumne Mounds near Pine City, which are linear mounds of enormous length.

The last prehistoric Indian culture to enter this area was the Mississippian (1000 A.D. to 1700 A.D.). These people brought a different chipped-stone tool kit, a different pottery with emphasis on globular forms, a more intensive agriculture, and a larger and more settled village life.

The concluding portion of the booklet notes the location and movements of those tribes present in the historic period, and it stresses the need for more archaeological work to fill the remaining gaps in the knowledge of Minnesota's prehistory.

Mr. Johnson is to be commended for producing a lively work that will do much to stir an interest in and an appreciation for an important chapter in America's prehistory.

*Reviewed by* ROBERT E. RITZENTHALER, *curator of anthropology at the Milwaukee Public Museum and the author of Prehistoric Indians of Wisconsin (1967).*

*The Old Northwest: Studies in Regional History. 1787-1910.* Edited by Harry N. Scheiber.

(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1969. xxvi, 395 p. \$3.25.)

THIS VOLUME will be useful as a reader in courses dealing with the Middle West as defined by Frederick Jackson Turner. While the main focus is on the region north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi, some of the articles treat adjoining states both to the south and the west, especially Kentucky, Missouri, and Iowa.

The editor makes use of the preface to discuss "Regionalism" and "Frontier" as concepts. He argues that "Regionalism," which relates to Turner's idea of American sections, has greater historical validity than the latter's notion of frontier influence upon the character of society. Mr. Scheiber rejects Ray Allen Billington's definition of the frontier which stresses "a low man-land ratio and usually abundant, unexploited natural resources" and says that the frontier was distinctive simply as "the site, bordering unsettled areas, in which new communities are founded." In these terms the frontier shrinks in importance because "frontier environment becomes one variable among many, in a multi-variable analysis of social, political, and intellectual development."

A good argument can be made for Mr. Scheiber's approach. This reviewer has thought for some time that the claims made by Turner and Mr. Billington in regard to frontier influence upon American character are most applicable to the Old Northwest and the surrounding states. The case-study approach to community building, of which some examples are found in this volume, is likely to tell us more about the United States as a multi-regional nation than general studies of frontier expansion. We must never forget, however, that one of the common experiences shared by every region was the frontier stage of development. It certainly was one of the forces that bound region to region in the making of a nation during the nineteenth century. This collection of writings, covering a wide variety of topics and broken into seven parts with separate introductions, provides a basis for discussions.

Reviewed by HENRY E. FRITZ, chairman of the history department at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

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*Masters of Medicine.* By J. Arthur Myers.

(St. Louis, Warren H. Green, Inc., 1968. xx, 919 p. \$15.00.)

THIS WORK chronicles the first seventy-eight years of the history of the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. The choice of authors was a good one. Dr. Myers, now professor emeritus in the School of Public Health and the department of internal medicine at the university, is the author of several other works in medical history, most notably *Invited and Conquered*, a history of tuberculosis in the state (1949).

A chronological history of the school comprises the first one-fourth of the book, beginning with Minnesota's early

medical history, sketching briefly other medical colleges in the state, and touching on the careers of the six deans of the School of Medicine. The rest of the volume is given over to individual histories of the school's departments and adjuncts. Each of these chapters was written by a member of the department, and they all provide a wealth of biographical material on the men and women who built the department, together with portraits. I still have not figured out the value of the ten appendixes, for the material they contain should either have been omitted or expanded to cover all the departments.

It is unfortunate that this otherwise commendable volume is guilty of the one fault which is inexcusable in any book which makes the slightest pretense whatsoever of being a scholarly work — there is no index. The vast amount of information to be found in it is almost totally lost except through prodigious searching, and the fault is amplified by the fact that the table of contents is buried after eighteen pages of introductory material. Aside from this, however, Dr. Myers has made a most valuable contribution to the history of medicine in Minnesota.

Reviewed by EDWARD SWANSON, head of the society's library technical services, who has a special interest in medical history.

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*The Lure of the Land: A Social History of the Public Lands from the Articles of Confederation to the New Deal.* By Everett Dick.

(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1970. xii, 413 p. Illustrations. \$9.50.)

EVERETT DICK, whose books on the frontier have deservedly become classics, turns to an examination of American land policy in his latest study. This book grew out of his earlier research, for he became convinced that the process of transferring the ownership of land from government to the individual was "the most important single social factor in frontier history." It is this process that he traces in the book reviewed here.

Shunning the role of the iconoclast, Mr. Dick gives high praise to the land studies of earlier writers and professes to have added little to their reports. Yet he has done a tremendous amount of research himself in original sources, as well as having examined a library of secondary material. As a result, he has produced another classic. He has examined all phases of our land problems, from surveying through the organization of land offices, the early credit laws, preemption, the difficulties of Spanish titles in lands acquired during the Mexican War, the gold rush and mineral lands, internal improvements and railroad grants, homestead laws, timber lands, free grass and the range cattle and sheep industries, deserts, mountains, the Great Plains, townsites, and conservation.

What stood out for this reviewer was that from the very beginning of our experiment in self-government a group of men on the frontier was determined to skim cream off new areas open to settlement. These men were land specula-

tors, for they had no intention of making their homes on a frontier farm. But they were not speculators in the usual sense of an Eastern capitalist who monopolizes land and forces the honest and hard-working farmer to pay a pretty penny for a homesite. These speculators were a special breed of men who followed the frontier west and through stealth, force, bribery, corruption, claim associations, or other illegal methods acquired the best lands, either for townsites or for farming. This gentry grabbed even the free lands of the homestead era and then sold them to the pioneer farmers. Generally averse to publicity, these fellows have been exposed by the labors of the author who found them everywhere along the frontier.

It would not be fair, however, to emphasize this part of Mr. Dick's study, lest the reader overlook the great sweep of the book which encompasses all phases of the story of our public lands and of their disposal by a permissive government.

*Reviewed by* RODNEY C. LOEHR, professor of history at the University of Minnesota and a member of the society's executive council.

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*American Indian Medicine.* By Virgil J. Vogel.

(Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1970. xx, 583 p. Illustrations. \$12.50.)

EXCEPT FOR the "medicine man" popularized by peddlers of genuine Indian "cure alls," most of us know relatively little about aboriginal medical practices. Yet, the Indian often served as physician and pharmacist to the frontiersman who depended heavily on native remedies. Indeed, the esteem in which Indian curing skill was held by the pioneers explains in part the success of the Indian medicine show.

Paradoxically, as this exhaustive and carefully done study shows, the impact of aboriginal medical practices on contemporary America has not been as profound as it could have been because the white man generally ignored Indian knowledge and experience. "Just as America was considered to be undiscovered before the white men found it," the author points out, "so the Indian drugs were unreal or of no account until white men discovered them" (p. 240). Nevertheless, cocaine, insulin, and penicillin were anticipated in rudimentary form long before the white man reached American shores, and some 220 drugs which have been or are currently listed in official U.S. drug compendia were first used by the Indians of North and South America for medical purposes. In addition the Indians developed, independently of Old World influence, the bulb syringe for injections and enemas; trephination; and anesthetics and antiseptics.

More anthropology than history, *American Indian Medicine* is massively documented and includes a 147-page appendix which lists and describes the various drugs and remedies used by the Indians of the Americas. In addition there is a comprehensive bibliography and two indexes — one devoted exclusively to botanical names. If the book has a major weakness, it is that the author tried to do too much. His discussions of South American aboriginal medical practices are inadequate because of his reliance on secondary and translated works.

Attractive in format, *American Indian Medicine* is also rather expensive, although the \$12.50 price tag should not deter the interested purchaser who will get a very useful reference tool.

*Reviewed by* HERMAN J. VIOLA, editor of *Prologue: The Journal of the National Archives, who received his doctorate from Indiana University, where he worked on American Indian history and culture.*

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## news & notes

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A SERIES of short articles under the general title of "The Faces of Minnesota" is appearing in *Minnesota Motorist*, monthly publication of the Minnesota State Automobile Association. Written by Ron D. Johnson, managing editor, the first four articles deal with "The Indian in Minnesota" (March), "The Fur Trader" (April), "The Military" (May), and "The River" (June). The first is a report on the present situation of Minnesota's nearly 35,000 Indians, the state's "largest minority." The other three are largely historical, and the author acknowledges the assistance of staff members of the Minnesota Historical

Society, among others. Plans call for several more articles, including reports on pioneers, the timber industry, railroads, and iron mining.

ROSS & HAINES, INC. has reprinted one of the basic books on nineteenth-century missionary work among the Indians in Minnesota — Stephen Return Riggs's *Mary and I: Forty Years With the Sioux* (Minneapolis, 1969. xlv, 451 p. \$12.50). First published in 1880 and reprinted in 1887, Riggs's account — reproduced intact — includes such subjects as the preparation of a Dakota language grammar and dictionary with the Pond brothers

and others, life of missionary Riggs and his wife at such places as Lac qui Parle and Hazelwood, their dramatic escape during the Sioux Uprising of 1862, and Riggs's experience with Indian prisoners. The new edition reprints the original introduction by the Rev. S. C. Bartlett and is enhanced by a new introduction by Jon Willand who, among other things, raises the question whether the Indians' situation "would have been better or worse without the work of the missionaries. . . . The whole matter of the missionary presence is one which invites additional research." Mr. Willand has also added an index and a picture section.

OF INTEREST to St. Croix Valley buffs are two locally produced publications which recall the past in Stillwater and the rural area to the west known as the Rutherford settlement. Betty Roney has compiled and republished a selection of dated articles from the column written over the years by her father, the late Edgar L. Roney, long-time associate editor of the *Stillwater Gazette*. *Looking Backward* (Stillwater, Washington County Historical Society, 1970. 109 p. \$3.95) makes pleasant, nostalgic reading. More significantly, the attractive, illustrated brochure represents the first and only separate publication of any length devoted to Stillwater's fascinating history. A name index would have enhanced its reference value. Perhaps the nearest thing to a published history of Stillwater is the recent August 6, 1970, hundred-page centennial issue of the *Stillwater Gazette*, the longest-lived newspaper in Minnesota still owned and published by the same family—direct descendants of the founding editor, Augustus B. Easton.

Mildred A. Newman's *The Rutherford Neighborhood, 1845-1969* (Stillwater, Croixside Press, 1970. 85 p. Illustrations. \$3.75) describes a rural community through the stories of its homes. Both booklets are worthwhile additions to the slowly expanding bookshelf of Washington County and St. Croix Valley publications.

James Taylor Dunn

"A PICTORIAL RESUME of the Black Community, its achievements, and its immediate goals" is presented in *Minneapolis Negro Profile* (Minneapolis, Colwell Press, 1969. 176 p. \$4.95). Walter R. Scott, Sr., the editor and publisher, has compiled photographs and career sketches of some of the Blacks involved in the business and community life of the Mill City. Negro representatives from industry, education, various professions, social service, small business, athletics, and the entertainment world offer, in Mr. Scott's words, "but a fraction of proof" that Black Americans will realize their dream of full citizenship. The book, which includes some historical background on the Negro in Minnesota, an address delivered by Theodore Roosevelt in 1904, and an essay on racism by Tom Wicker of the New York Times Service, is aimed at white employers and young Blacks. It hopes to awaken the former to the accomplishments of

Negro employees and to encourage the latter to get the essential education and training for a chosen career.

AN ARTICLE entitled "Georg Sverdrup Concerning Luther's Principles in America" by James S. Hamre appears in the December, 1969, issue of the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* (St. Louis). The author, who is assistant professor of religion and philosophy at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, reviews the distinguished career of Sverdrup, professor and president at Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis from the mid-1870s until his death in 1907 and a leader in the formation of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in 1890 and the Lutheran Free Church in 1897. Mr. Hamre asserts that the Norwegian-American theologian considered America to be the setting in which Martin Luther's principles might best be realized. He supports this theory by examining Sverdrup's position on two significant issues—the relation of church and state and congregationalism. Sverdrup's works are quoted extensively in the brief article.

IN AN ATTEMPT to provide a meaningful profile of the Chippewa Indians as they relate to their old culture and to modern civilization, James Hull has written and published a small, illustrated booklet entitled *Red Shadows in the Mist* (1969. 57 p. \$1.50). Relying on a combination of fact, family recollection, and personal impression, the author traces the history of the Lake Superior Chippewa from the time of their ancient nomadic life to their present-day impoverished existence on reservations. His semi-fictional treatment is complemented by several original poems. Mr. Hull, who is a registered member of the tribe and a descendant of French fur traders, focuses on the colorful fur trade once centered at Grand Portage. He states that the monument "most nearly typifies, in its history and isolation, the end product of the Indian-to-trader-to U.S. Government relationship." The booklet concludes with the fervent plea of the village chief for better homes, jobs, and education for his people and with the symbolic passing of an era in the summer of 1969 when the main hall at Grand Portage burned. Copies of the booklet are available through the Minnesota Historical Society's order department.

THE BENEDICTINES of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, figure prominently in Gerald G. Steckler's illustrated account of "The Founding of Mount Angel Abbey," which appeared in the December, 1969, issue of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. In 1881 the Archbishop of Oregon City, Charles John Seghers, attempted to persuade the Benedictine fathers under Abbot Alexius Edelbrock to provide a high school and priests to serve the state's German immigrants. At the same time, representatives from the Swiss branch of the Benedictine Order enthusiastically settled in the Fillmore-Sublimity area. Edelbrock and a fellow monk, however, found "no special inducement" to take a mission in Oregon following their inspection tour that winter. Indeed, it was Edelbrock's opinion, as documented by Mr. Steckler, that the Swiss had pre-empted the only place ready for a monastery in the sparsely settled state and that some of the diocesan clergy would not welcome the Minnesota Benedictines. The author records Archbishop Seghers' repeated overtures to Edelbrock, who steadfastly refused to locate a house in Oregon until the state had further matured. In 1883 the Swiss Benedictines changed the name of Fillmore to Mount Angel and in the following year laid the cornerstone of their first abbey.

THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN career of the French scientist and map maker Joseph N. Nicollet is being brought to light through the persistent and painstaking research of Martha Coleman Bray. During the past six months Mrs. Bray has published two articles on different facets of Nicollet's many-sided contribution to American science, and this fall the Minnesota Historical Society has scheduled for publication a translation of the journals kept by the explorer on his expedition to the sources of the Mississippi in 1836 and on a journey up the St. Croix River in 1837. Also included will be extensive notes on Chippewa life and culture. These manuscripts, owned by the Library of Congress, have never before been translated or published and have been little used by scholars. Mrs. Bray has arranged them, has provided thorough annotation, and has written a lively introduction.

Her article on "Joseph Nicolas Nicollet, Geologist," in the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical So-*

ciety, 114:37-59 (February 16, 1970) focuses specifically on his place in the developing science of geology, the field in which "his reputation has lived more strongly . . . than in any of the other sciences through which he earned his early distinction." Of particular interest to Minnesota readers is his relationship with fellow geologist George W. Featherstonhaugh, whose survey of the Minnesota Valley and the Coteau country of eastern South Dakota preceded that of Nicollet by several years. In the *Smithsonian Journal of History* for Winter, 1968-1969, Mrs. Bray writes of Nicollet's long struggle for official recognition and sponsorship. Under the title "Joseph N. Nicollet: Parisian in Washington," she describes his friendships among eminent scholars of the day and their efforts to persuade a pragmatic Jacksonian America of the value of government support for science. She concludes that Nicollet's appointment in 1838 to command an expedition gathering information on the lands between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers "marked a sharp break with the tradition of army responsibility for organized expeditions and a beginning of the concern Congress was reluctantly to show for the activities of civilian scientists."

Rhoda R. Gilman

LAKE SUPERIOR is the subject of a special issue of *Naturalist*, journal of the Natural History Society of Minnesota, for Winter, 1969. In the modest-length lead article, Grace Lee Nute treats "Historical Lake Superior" in general terms, touching upon such subjects as Indians, explorers, fur traders, missionaries, and fishermen who moved on or near the lake. She also mentions vessels which plied the great inland sea, iron mining, and logging and shows that "Lake Superior still lives up to its name in many ways."

TO MARK the fiftieth anniversary of its founding in October, 1919, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has published a small booklet entitled *The First Fifty Years* (St. Paul, 1969. 40 p. \$.75). The author, Margaret Fearrington Hargraves, traces the history of the state organization, which predates the National League of Women Voters by several months. Despite program and leadership changes through the years, Mrs. Hargraves writes, the Minnesota league has retained its original pur-

pose — "to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government." She describes some of the organization's campaigns for improved legislation, including the reorganization of state government departments, the establishment of compulsory school attendance, and the regulation of the employment of children and women. The state league has maintained its relevance, according to the author, and is currently involved in election law reform and citizen education.

W. TURRENTINE JACKSON'S *The Enterprising Scot: Investors in the American West after 1873* (Edinburgh University Press, 1968. xvi, 415 p. Illustrations. £ 3.3.0. Available from Aldine Publishing Company, Chicago) discusses the investment companies which channeled the surplus capital of the Scottish middle class into the development of the trans-Mississippi West. In Minnesota the sale of farm land on mortgages and the development of townsites were the favored methods of profit taking, and the southwestern communities of Airlie, Dundee, and Woodstock were founded by two Scottish companies, one of which also purchased town lots at Fergus Falls. The author notes that although Minnesota passed legislation directed against alien land ownership in 1887, foreign mortgage companies received lenient treatment. He also observes that Scottish investors "rejoiced in the outcome" of the 1896 presidential campaign — William McKinley's victory over William Jennings Bryan. The volume is annotated and contains a bibliography and an index.

Michael Brook

NOVELIST, playwright, artist, and teacher, Stephen Longstreet has written a dramatic history of the Indian wars on the Great Plains. *War Cries on Horseback* (Garden City, Doubleday & Company, 1970. xvii, 335 p. Illustrations. \$7.95) includes vivid accounts of the great Apache chieftains, the Sioux Uprising in Minnesota, and Custer and the Battle of the Little Big Horn, as well as the other major engagements of the half century of warfare between "blue soldiers and redmen" west of the Mississippi. Although the author claims to have used a wealth of primary materials — including some at the Minnesota Historical Society — and frequently quotes

contemporaries, he rarely identifies his sources. A list of suggested readings in the back of the book is comprised of monographs and a few reminiscences. Mr. Longstreet's chronicle does reveal a sensitivity to the lack of understanding which prevailed on both sides during the clash of the two cultures, and his admiration for the resilience and sustaining spirituality of the Indians shines through. His descriptions of the harsh life shared by white and red men on the frontier are graphic.

Christina H. Jacobsen

THE COLORFUL panorama of Polish experience in America from its beginnings in Jamestown to the present day is described by Joseph A. Wytrowski in *Poles in American History and Tradition* (Detroit, Endurance Press, 1969. 498 p. \$6.75). The author discusses the contributions of the Polish masses as well as outstanding individuals, like Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony since 1960. Of particular interest to Minnesotans is the chapter devoted to the nineteenth-century Polish peasants who flocked to factories in the East and to mines in the West and Northwest, including Minnesota. The book is annotated and contains a bibliography and an index.

HARVEY DUNN, South Dakota artist and teacher who died in 1952, is the subject of a richly-illustrated biography, *The Prairie Is My Garden*, by Robert F. Karolevitz (Aberdeen, North Plains Press, 1969. 95 p. \$2.00). With material gleaned from newspapers, courthouse records, military archives, and, most important, the recollections of Dunn's friends and students, the author paints a word picture of a warm, dynamic, and unpredictable man who took pride in his pioneer heritage and had a talent for communicating a philosophy of life along with artistic techniques to his pupils. Mr. Karolevitz follows the evolution of Dunn's career from the latter's youth in a log cabin on the Dakota plains through the trying years at the Chicago Institute of Art where fellow students informed the raw-boned farm boy that he lacked the culture necessary to be an artist. Dunn, writes the author, went on to achieve national prominence as a commercial illustrator, an art teacher, and one of the eight official artists of the American Expeditionary Force in

World War I. After the war he dedicated himself for a quarter of a century to teaching and to portraying life on the prairie as he knew it. He told students: "Merely knowing your craft will never be enough to make a picture. . . . If you ever amount to anything at all, it will be because you were true to that deep desire or ideal which made you seek artistic expression in pictures."

"WISCONSIN does have unique flavors; a rare beauty of all the seasons, a unique geography, and most alluring of all, a regional and hard-to-define mysterious sensation that comes to a constant traveler and observer," asserts Robert E. Gard in the foreword to *This is Wisconsin* (Spring Green, Wisconsin House, 1969. 317 p. \$6.50). In this volume Mr. Gard, who has written several books about his adopted state, sets out to sample anew the "flavors" of the southwestern uplands, north country forests, ridges, waters, and valleys. Wisconsinites from all walks of life furnished the author with historical and contemporary material, ranging from tall tale to fact, from the lore of lumberjack days to the visit of Lady Bird Johnson to Spring Green in 1967. Mr. Gard has recorded the humor and charm of the state's folk, while the numerous line drawings and photographs capture the varied moods of the Wisconsin countryside.

AS A YOUNG MAN in the 1850s, John Wesley Powell spent his summers rowing down the Ohio, Illinois, and Upper Mississippi rivers and hiking across Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. Ten years later, as a one-armed veteran of the Civil War, Powell set out with ten men in four boats to explore the uncharted course of the Colorado River and its surrounding canyons. Six men in two boats survived the journey over rapids considered impassable. E. P. Dutton and Company has published Powell's dramatic journal of the thirteen-week trip — *Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell Diary of the First Trip Through the Grand Canyon 1869* — edited and introduced by Don C. Fowler (New York, 1969. 168 p. \$30.00). Mr. Fowler indicates that the expedition's success led to the establishment under Powell of the Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region, one of the four "Great Surveys" which merged into the United

States Geological Survey in 1881. Contemporary drawings and photographs, plus forty-eight pages of magnificent color photographs by Eliot Porter, help reveal the thrill and beauty of the canyon country. Mr. Porter's epilogue pays tribute to Glen Canyon, which has been inundated since Powell's exploration, and to the Colorado River itself. There is an index.

TWO anthropologists, Alice Marriott and Carol K. Rachlin, have attempted to record the "origins, cultures, and destinies of America's most important Indian tribes" in *American Epic: The Story of the American Indian* (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1969. 254 p. Illustrations. \$6.95). The book begins with an account of the earliest peoples who wandered across the continent ten to four thousand years ago and concludes with a brief examination of current Indian affairs. In the intervening chapters, the authors describe the richness and diversity of tribal life styles and recount, without judgment for the most part, the impact upon the American Indian of the Industrial Revolution and white settlement. Of particular interest to Minnesotans are the sections devoted to the Indians of the Great Lakes and the north central plains. There is a bibliography and an index.

FEW SCHOLARLY controversies have lasted as long as that which began three quarters of a century ago with Frederick Jackson Turner. The fires of controversy burn lower today, but scholarly sifters continue to explore the ashes. Richard Hofstadter and Seymour Martin Lipset are among them. Between them they have edited a collection of essays entitled *Turner and the Sociology of the Frontier* (New York, Basic Books, Inc., 1968. 232 p. \$5.95). The title is most apt, for Turner was "probably the first American historian . . . to see that if the peculiar configuration of American history and the American character is to be understood, one must have recourse to certain repetitive sociological and economic processes that have refashioned men and institutions in the American environment." All of the essays presented have been previously published elsewhere. Among them are such well-known pieces as George Wilson Pierson's "The Frontier and American Institutions"; "Frontier Estate Builders and Farm Laborers" by Paul Wallace

Gates; and a re-evaluation of the "safety valve" by Fred A. Shannon. The value of this volume is that each essay examines a separate aspect of the American past and relates it to contemporary findings in sociology. It is not surprising to find, therefore, exploratory articles such as "Social Theory and the Pioneer" by Allan Bogue in this edition. In short, *Turner and the Sociology of the Frontier* is a book based on "the difficult but interesting terrain that lies between history and sociology."

Newell Searle

HELGE INGSTAD'S 1965 account of his search for the sites of early Norse settlements in North America — *Westward to Vinland* — has been translated from the original Norwegian by Erik J. Friis (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1969. 250 p. \$6.95). Mr. Ingstad tells of the finding and excavation (with his wife) of the village site at L'Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland. This handsomely illustrated volume has been revised to include mention of artifacts recovered from the site since 1965. The author also provides some fascinating information about the Eskimos and Indians native to the area. There is a bibliography and an index.

A SYMPOSIUM on *Old Norse Literature and Mythology*, edited by Edgar C. Polomé (Austin, University of Texas Press, 1969. xii, 347 p. Illustrations. \$7.50), treats such varied subjects as the problems of translating from the Scandinavian, discussed by Harvard University Professor Einar Haugen, and fertility rites in pagan Scandinavia, surveyed by E. O. G. Turville-Petre, professor at Oxford. Of special significance for Norwegian-Americans is Erik Wahlgren's essay on "Fact and Fancy in the Vinland Sagas." At a time when archaeologists are corroborating ancient Scandinavian records of the first visits to North America, Mr. Wahlgren, a professor at the University of California in Los Angeles, recognizes the general interest in the Icelandic sagas. Employing word study and literary analysis, he attempts to separate factual and fictional details. The questions he ponders include the actual existence of certain figures in the sagas, the Christianity of Leif Erikson, and the meaning of the word "Vinland." Mr. Wahlgren concludes by stating that "A saga as a work of literature . . . is greater

than the sum of its identifiable parts. . . . and this is true whether one approaches the problem from a scientific, or from a chiefly appreciative, point of view." Quoting fellow scholars Magnus Magnusson and Hermann Pálsson, he adds that sagas "illuminate history with humanity." A lengthy bibliography follows the essay.

A THREE-DAY international conference on the North American fur trade — the first since the one co-sponsored in St. Paul by the Minnesota Historical Society in November, 1965 — will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 1–3. Several Manitoba organizations and the Hudson's Bay Company will join in sponsoring the conference, which commemorates the centennial of the province and the 300th anniversary of the company's founding. Among speakers will be Rhoda R. Gilman, assistant managing editor of the Minnesota Historical Society, who will give a paper on "The Last Days of the Fur Trade in the Upper Mississippi Valley." Walter A. Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum will discuss underwater archaeology conducted by his organization and the Minnesota Historical Society. One speaker who was on the program in St. Paul will also talk in Winnipeg. He is Professor Kenneth G. Davies of the Universities of Bristol and Oxford. His paper will be on "The Days of the Dividend Drought, 1691–1717."

IN ADDITION to its quarterly *Newsletter*, the Minnesota Genealogical Society published the first issue of its magazine — the *Minnesota Genealogist* — in March, 1970. The new journal, which is edited by the organization's president, Patricia C. Harpole, will be mailed four times a year to members only. It provides information about source materials and research completed by society members, as well as space for genealogists to request assistance in their search for ancestors. A treasurer's report, list of new members, and bibliography of pertinent additions to the Minnesota Historical Society library are included in the magazine.

THE MINNESOTA Historical Society has published a valuable and timely addition to the reference literature on the area's two major Indian tribes — *Chippewa and Dakota Indians: A Subject Catalog of Books, Pamphlets, Periodical Articles, and Manuscripts*

in the *Minnesota Historical Society* (1969. 126 p. \$7.50). This publication lists every subject entry in the public catalogs of the society's library and manuscripts collections pertaining to the Chippewa and Dakota. An introduction by James Taylor Dunn, chief librarian, describes the scope of the society's holdings. This volume will, first of all, draw attention to native Americans themselves. Secondly, its 2,100 entries make the substantial literature on these people easily accessible both to the scholar and the interested layman. Librarians should find the bibliography useful in locating, acquisitioning, and cataloging scarce materials on Minnesota Indians. A single source, such as the society has produced, will save all researchers time and money and will reduce the likelihood of oversight and error. The work should serve as a model for other institutions.

Noted by G. WILLIAM CRAIG, lecturer in the American Indian Studies Department at the University of Minnesota.

NAMED CO-WINNERS of the Minnesota Historical Society's Solon J. Buck Award for the best article published in *Minnesota History* in 1969 were Ferenc M. Szasz and the husband-and-wife team of Kent and Gretchen Kreuter. Mr. Szasz, assistant professor of history at the University of New Mexico, received \$125 for his "William B. Riley and the Fight Against Teaching of Evolution in Minnesota," which appeared in the Spring issue. The Kreuters also were given \$125 for their article, "The Presidency or Nothing: Cushman K. Davis and the Campaign of 1896," published in the Fall issue. Mrs. Kreuter formerly taught at the College of St. Catherine, and Mr. Kreuter is associate professor of history at Hamline University.

The award committee consisted of Millard L. Gieske, assistant dean of the graduate school at the University of Minnesota; Merrill E. Jarchow, long-time professor of history at Carleton College and now a research fellow for the Minnesota Historical Society; and Kenneth Carley, editor of this magazine. Mr. Jarchow announced the awards on June 11 at the society's annual meeting in St. Paul.

MICHAEL BROOK, head of the reference division of the Minnesota Historical Society library, will spend

September and October on a European research trip that will be assisted by the Oscar F. and Madge Hawkins Foundation of Minneapolis and the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society. Mr. Brook will do research, intended to lead toward a bibliography of the Swedish labor tradition in North America, at the Royal Library in Stockholm, Abo Akademi (the Swedish University of Abo), Finland, and elsewhere.

FORT SNELLING GUIDES in replicas of U.S. army uniforms of 1825 are firing muskets and marching at allotted times this summer as part of the post's sesquicentennial celebration planned by the Minnesota Historical Society. The "guard" goes through its paces on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m., 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, and 8:30 and on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., 7:30, and 8:30. The rest of the time the guides show visitors through buildings so far restored on the picturesque bluff overlooking the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. In one of the restored buildings — the sutler's store — historic replicas of bottles, buttons, and other artifacts discovered on the site are sold.

THE RAMSEY HOUSE, which has been closed since October, 1968, for extensive restoration work, was reopened on June 14 by the society's historic sites department. The interesting structure at 265 South Exchange Street in St. Paul can be visited during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily Tuesday through Friday and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Monday. The house was for many years the home of Alexander Ramsey, Minnesota's first territorial and second state governor, and of his descendants. A reconstructed carriage house now serves as an orientation center for the mansion.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN, professor of English at the University of Illinois and a frequent contributor to this magazine over many years, is planning to write a biography of "Mr. Minnesota History," Theodore C. Blegen, who died on July 18, 1969. Anyone who can furnish letters from Dean Blegen, or anecdotes and other information about him, is requested to get in touch with Mr. Flanagan at his summer mailing address: Chisago City, Minnesota 55013.

**S**ince 1849, when it was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving a record of the state's history. Its outstanding library and its vast collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, and museum objects reflect this activity. The society also interprets Minnesota's past, telling the story of the state and region through publications, museum displays, tours, institutes, and restoration of historic sites. The work of the society is supported in part by the state and in part by private contributions, grants, and membership dues. It is a chartered public institution governed by an executive council of interested citizens and belonging to all who support it through membership and participation in its programs. You are cordially invited to use its resources and to join in its efforts to make Minnesota a community with a sense of strength from the past and purpose for the future.

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